Agricultural research in H.P.

2117. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the average investment/expenditure on agricultural research in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether Government have made any analysis of the existing system of such research in the State and the achievement of its objective to increase food production, matching the population growth;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to revamp the national agricultural research system to meet the food production challenge in relation to population growth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The average expenditure on agricultural research made through different projects and programmes of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) during the last three years in Himachal Pradesh was Rs. 24.08 crore/year.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. This is a State subject. No specific analysis has been done. However, number of varieties, equipments and technologies have been developed which help to increase food production in Himachal Pradesh.

(d) The National Agricultural Research System (NARS) comprising of Indian Council of Agricultural Research and State Agricultural Universities aspires to harness science to ensure comprehensive and sustained physical, economic and ecological access to food and livelihood security for all, through generation, assessment, refinement and adoption of appropriate technologies. Besides the ongoing programmes in research, the NARS aims to deal with the researchable issues in the frontier areas of science to ensure enhanced productivity, profitability and sustainability. The Conservation of Natural Resource Base is among the priority areas beside

biotechnology, Integrated Pest Management, Integrated Nutrient Management, Integrated Crop Management etc. The efforts are being made to make the research programmes, participatory by involving all the stakeholders including farmers. For frontline technology dissemination research - extension - farmers linkages are being developed. For capacity building and Human Resource Development, national and international exchanges and networking are planned. The research focus is being modified from a commodity approach to system mode.

Designating TRIFED for procurement of soyabean in Andhra Pradesh

†2118. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received from the Andhra Pradesh Government to designate TRIFED for procurement of Soybean in the scheduled areas of the State;

(b) if so, when such request was received in the Ministry and what steps have been contemplated so far in this regard; and

(c) how many quintals of Soyabean have been procured by the Centre during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A request from Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh dated 15.11.2000 was received in this Department which has been examined. For procurement under Price Support Scheme (PSS) in the scheduled areas of Andhra Pradesh, NAFED, has been utilizing the services of Girijan Cooperative Development Corporation which is a constituent member of the TRIFED. This arrangement has been working well. Nomination of two parallel agencies i.e. NAFED and TRIFED for procurement under PSS may create operational and coordination problems, therefore, it has been decided to continue with the existing arrangement.

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†Orginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.